



WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 15, 1899.

HIS CRIME BECOMES MURDER AS HE FLEES

The Postmaster of Slidell
Dies in Baltimore.

Marylanders Talk of Lynching the
Guilty Negro if Caught.

Mrs. Louis Rosenstein Not Expected
to Live—Suspected Accomplices
Lodged in Jail.

Baltimore, Md., May 14.—If Humphrey Brown, alias Taylor, a colored farm hand of unsavory reputation, who is now fleeing in the face of an incensed mob in the vicinity of Slidell, Montgomery county, should be overtaken before morning there will be, in all probability, a lynching. The negro is accused, on very good evidence, of having assaulted Louis Rosenstein and his wife Dora, inflicting injuries from which the former died at the Maryland University Hospital here tonight, while the woman is not expected to live until morning. The murder was a most brutal one, and robbery was the incentive for the crime.

Rosenstein conducted a general store at Slidell, a lonely spot, near Boyd's Station, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railway. The negro, it is supposed, went into the store to purchase a pair of shoes. He attacked Rosenstein and beat him into insensibility. Mrs. Rosenstein, hearing the noise, came to her husband's assistance, and she met a similar fate at the hands of the negro. The latter then ransacked the house, taking everything of value he could lay his hands on, and escaped. The authorities are scouring the surrounding country for the suspect.

Boyd's, Md., May 14.—Word was received here late this evening by Sheriff Thompson from Baltimore announcing the death in a hospital there of Louis Rosenstein, the postmaster of Slidell, a little village near this place, who, together with his wife, was viciously beaten and robbed yesterday by Humphrey Brown. The excitement over the crime committed yesterday has subsided in some degree, but indignant citizens continue to assemble near the Rosenstein house to discuss the outrage, and the universal opinion is that Brown, alias Taylor, had accomplices. The sentiment is strongly in favor of taking summary vengeance against this negro when caught, but wiser heads will probably prevail. A search through the woods near the scene of the assault was rewarded by finding the undershirt of the assailant, and blood prints were plainly visible around the neck-band. In his hurry to cast the shirt off he had torn it completely in half, and in his efforts to remove all blood stained parts he had torn the wrist-bands off.

The shirt has the appearance of being washed, but enough stain was left to show the imprints of the fingers. It is now positively known that Louis Rosenstein had at least \$600 in his possession. Among this money were several gold pieces which he has had in his possession for a number of years. Abe Goldstein, a close friend of Rosenstein, verifies the report that Rosenstein had a good deal of money in the house, amounting to nearly \$500 ten days ago. Rosenstein kept no money in bank. The robber, after taking all the money from the pocketbook threw a number of checks to the amount of \$50 on the bureau.

Benjamin Vermillion, engineer on Baltimore and Ohio train 69, westbound, reports this morning having seen a negro answering the description of the assailant sitting on an overhead bridge near Stott's Station, six miles east of Forest Glen, and as the train passed he made an effort to cover his face with his hands. After the train passed he was seen counting a sum of money. This was about 7:30 last night. The description given by Vermillion differs from that generally circulated, and Brown may have changed his clothes.

John Alfred Brown and Nellie Turner, who were committed to Rockville jail last night, took with them their infant child and left at their home two children, aged three and five, and made no arrangements whatever for their care. The children made their way to a farmer close by, Garrett Linthicum, who now has them in charge, but is very anxious that the sheriff make some disposition of them. John Brown and the woman do not bear the best of reputations in that neighborhood, although some of the citizens are loath to implicate them in the crime. John Brown is employed by a farmer, John W. Knott, close by, and on the morning of the tragedy he was later than usual in showing up for work, making an excuse on account of light rain. While he was working in the woods with Thomas, a son of Mr. Knott, Virgie, the young daughter of Mr. Knott, came into the woods and called to her brother that Mr. Rosenstein and wife had been murdered. Brown seemed very anxious and plied the girl with questions, telling her that it could not be so and contradicting her repeatedly, asking her if they were alive yet. She said yes, but unconscious. He says, "My God, s'pose them people come to their senses; just as leave say John Brown did it as not."

John Brown then stated that he saw Humphrey Brown going to the woods where afterward the watch and keys were found. He appeared greatly excited all the forenoon and some one told John Brown that he would be the prime witness in this case. His reply was that he

would not be there to testify. He was later arrested, with his wife, by Sheriff Thompson.

Some persons are trying to connect Humphrey Brown with the burning of the store of John McCullough at this place on Friday morning last.

He has been in the neighborhood of the crime since Tuesday last, stopping with John Brown, and they were together at all times. No one remembers seeing him at Boyd's prior to the morning of the crime.

Dr. J. S. Carlin, a near friend of the Rosensteins, has just received a message from a brother of the victim in Baltimore, saying, "No hope for them;—please take care of store till I come." This has aroused the people of that neighborhood, and there will probably be a lynching should the negro be caught. The correspondent of your paper found the club used by the assailant in beating his victims yesterday morning. It stood in one corner of the room behind the bureau which was robbed, and in the same room in which Mrs. Rosenstein was lying unconscious. The club is now in possession of John W. Williams, at Boyd's. It is covered with blood, and is an ugly weapon—battered at the end and sharp, and it has the appearance of having been used as a drill.

It was late tonight that the two children of John Brown and the Turner woman say that their father and mother, accompanied by the assailant, left the house some time during the dark and did not return until daylight. The people of Forest Glen have today been scouring the woods in every direction, trying to get a trace of the fleeing negro. Sheriff Thompson says that no trace of him can be found at that point, only at a store at that place where he made a purchase.

A message from the victim's brother to Sheriff Thompson tonight says: "Louis Rosenstein died 6:20 p. m., kindly protect property as expect robbers will attempt to enter there again tonight."

Important developments are expected by tomorrow to show the guilt of accomplices. Mutterings and threats are heard on all sides against the parties involved, and the people on hearing of the death of one of the victims are wild with frenzy. The women of the neighborhood are as loud in their denunciation of this crime as are the men, and there is no telling what may be done in the next twenty-four hours.