

claring lynch law abhorrent to our Government.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—During the first excitement among the Italian residents of the United States, Baron Fava yesterday sent to the Italian Consul-General at New York the following telegram: "I learn from the papers that excitement is prevailing in the Italian colony on account of the New Orleans events. I have to resort to your influence and authority to urge upon the Italians of New York that they should by dignified, calm and strictly legal behavior show themselves in these circumstances worthy of a civilized country." It is understood that similar instructions were sent to all other Italian Consuls in the United States.

NEW ORLEANS, March 16.—The District Attorney has entered a *nolle prosequere* as to all the indictments pending in section B of the criminal court against the Italians implicated in the Hennessy assassination. This releases Mastranca, Incardonia and Marchesi, the boy. The indictment in section A still holds Sunzerri, Patorono, John Natalo and Prietzy.

NEW YORK, March 16.—The *Tribune* has from New Orleans interesting special interviews with William Parkerson, the leader of the regulators and others. Mr. Parkerson said he did not take the initiative in the matter; that the meeting was called after the verdict was rendered in the room of a certain citizen and that he (Parkerson) was made chairman. Again he was called upon, Saturday morning, to act as spokesman at the meeting. He felt that it was the most terrible duty he had ever undertaken, but it was the opinion of himself and others that the law had miscarried. When they addressed the crowd at the square, they said they were prepared to do whatever the people desired, and the populace shouted, "Come on." As they walked along, people came from the side streets and fell into the procession, women were crying and men cheering. It was the most terrible thing he ever saw, the quiet determination of the crowd.

They obeyed him (Parkerson) implicitly, just as if he were the military commander. "Of course," said Parkerson, "it is not a courageous thing to attack a man who is not armed. But we looked upon these men as so many reptiles, while on Friday, after the verdict was returned, the Italian fruit and oyster steamers along the wharves hoisted the Sicilian flag over the Stars and Stripes and the prisoners themselves had a champagne supper. Mr. Parkerson said he did not regret the matter a bit. This was a greater emergency than ever happened in New York or Chicago. While the Mafia confined itself to killing its own members we did not resort to violence. But Hennessy's killing struck at the very root of American institutions, and the intimidation of the Mafia and corruption of our juries was to be met only with strong measures. Moreover, I recognize no power above the people." The Italian consul, Signor Corte, says the trouble was originally between two factions of the Mafia. He did not wish to fasten the blame for Saturday's killing upon anybody, but thought that a grave responsibility rested with the governor, mayor and sheriff. There are 20,000 Italians in

New Orleans and 12,000 or 15,000 on the plantations around it, where they have supplanted negroes. It is not true that they are all scoundrels.

#### MAYOR SHAKESPEARE

makes no bones about his feeling in the matter. He declared bluntly to the *Tribune* correspondent that Parkerson and his associates did just right. He saw the citizens call in the morning and knew something was going to happen.

"Where were you during the riots?"

"Attending to private business."

"Did you take any measures to prevent the tragedy?"

"No."

"Don't you regret it?"

"No, sir," he answered, belligerently, "I am an American citizen, and I am not afraid of the devil. These men deserved hanging. We expected disagreement and had made arrangements for retrial. When I heard of the verdict I was frozen in my seat. These men were punished by lawful means. The men who did it were all peaceable and law-abiding. The Italians had taken the law into their own hands and we had to do the same. It was what they did in Italy. The Mafia got too strong for them, and what happened? The sovereign took hold of it—the King. Here the sovereign also took hold of it—the people. I'll stand up for law-abiding Italians fast enough," added this outspoken executive, "but these men out here, why they hoist the Sicilian flag above the stars and stripes, and one man trampled the American flag under foot.

In Father Manorita's statement yesterday he said he was sure the letter he received was from Provenzano, endorsing the action of the Mafia. This statement Joseph Provenzano this morning most emphatically denies. He said his first impulse was to have Father Manorita arrested and he consulted Chief Gasler regarding the matter and was advised to make a public statement regarding the matter as he thought it would do more good. Provenzano says he has not been connected with the Mafia in any manner. On the contrary he has been an object of their enmity.

"About five years ago," says Provenzano, "the Mafia sent me several letters, threatening to kill myself and brothers unless we gave the society \$1000. We did not respond and Jim Caruso shortly afterwards came to me and said he belonged to the society and that we had better pay the money. He said I could do so by going to Old Lake and bandaging my head in a red handkerchief, and leaving the money on a stump in a swamp near by. I was to go about my business and they were to get the money. I then went to some of my friends, John Davis, Pat Meally and Ralph Morgan being among the number, and they said not to pay it, that they would go with me in a wagon and see who was there to receive it. Jim Caruso, who was along, said this would not do. If you go with a crowd no one will appear. I then dropped the matter and told Caruso to have nothing to do with the society; to give up his fruit stand in the French market and come on the Levee and we would make him a free man. He said he would do so, as he was tired of the

Mafia, having recently been selected on a committee to kill some one."

Provenzano added that Caruso went to an Italian church and took an oath to quit the Mafia. He said Charlie Matranga was the chief of the Mafia gang, and that its object was to kill all who were against it. When a victim was selected he was invited to dinner, after which he was done up. Provenzano thinks one Dicarlo gave Father Manorita the idea that he was connected with the gang. It is believed here that the better element of the Italians are glad a salutary lesson has been administered to the Mafia, as they have for years been in dread of it. It is stated that when the verdict was returned Friday, two men belonging to the Mafia went to the levee flag pole, where one of them put his foot on the American flag and hoisted the Italian flag. The American flag was then hoisted under it. A number of Italians standing about when asked later why they permitted this, said they were afraid to interfere.

It is reported that the Politz confession to the State's attorney, while a largely disconnected one, yet gave many important features regarding what the Mafia is doing. He told about a meeting at which it was decided that Hennessy should die. In order to settle who should kill him, ten slips of paper numbered were placed in a hat with a lot of blanks. Whoever drew a numbered slip was assigned to the Hennessy murder.

The Italian consul (Corte) being asked today if it was true that he had expressed his approval of the doings of the citizens Saturday, said he had stated that he hoped justice would be meted out to the murderers of Hennessy. He was positive some of the slain were innocent, but as to the others he would not express himself. Last December Mr. Corte received a letter signed by the Mafia, threatening him with dire consequence in case he did not work in their interests and for the release of the accused.

Governor Nichols has been earnestly considering the matter, but will not make public his reply to Secretary Blaine yet.

NEW ORLEANS, March 17.—A Mafia warning, received by W. S. Parkerson, who led the citizens' movement on Saturday, does not make him feel uneasy, although there may be some foundation for it. Parkerson treats the letter lightly. He knows that if a hair on his head were touched, it would result in terrible punishment of the Italians and Sicilians. The result of the events on Saturday is that Provenzano and Matranga are accusing each other of being members of the Mafia, and from this some important facts may become known. The grand jury is investigating the charges of bribery of the jurors in the Hennessy case, and it is understood that they have some important clues. Today the grand jury was instructed to make a rigid investigation of the occurrences of Saturday. The records of the registration office of this city show that Antonio Marchesi registered as a voter on October 3. "He is one of the four whom the Italian consul claimed were still Italian subjects. No record is found of the other three.