

MURDER OF MISS DEAN.

Price, Who Is Charged with the Crime, Conveyed to Denton.

REMOVED FROM BALTIMORE'S JAIL.

A Trip on the Police Patrol-Boat Landon—The Prisoner's Trial Will Probably Begin Today—The Many Phases of the Case—General Maryland News.
[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]
DENTON, Md., April 29.—Marshall E. Price, who is accused of the murder of Miss Sallie Dean, in Caroline county, Md., and who had been confined in the Baltimore jail since his arrest, was sent from Baltimore to Denton today to be arraigned before the Circuit Court for Caroline County. Marshal Frey, with Detectives Solboid and Gault, who arrested Price, went to the Baltimore jail between 5 and 6 o'clock this morning and removed Price to the police patrol-boat Landon, which was lying at the foot of South street, and a few minutes later the little party was steaming for Denton. The police boat did not land her passengers and her prisoner at Denton tonight. It is believed that Price will be kept on the boat all night and will not be lodged in jail. Sheriff Berry has prepared a cell for Price in case he is turned over to his custody, but he has received no instructions that he will be expected to take care of the prisoner tonight. It is possible that the police boat will remain anchored in the river all night between here and Potter's Landing and will arrive early in the morning, which would be in time for the trial.

The indications now are that the trial will take place here and that it will begin tomorrow. Public opinion is believed to be against the removal of the case. Hotels, boarding-houses, restaurants and stores have made preparations for the large crowd which is anticipated at tomorrow's trial. Today has been quite rainy, and indications are that tomorrow will not be fair, in which case the crowd of spectators will be smaller.

A Parallel Case.

A case somewhat parallel to that of the murder of Miss Dean was that of little Emma Plummer, a daughter of the late Edgar Plummer, who, in 1882, was assaulted on her way home from school by a negro named Wilson and then murdered. But Wilson never came to trial. He finally confessed that he was the murderer, and excitement ran so high and the indignation of the people was so great that he was taken from the county jail shortly after his incarceration and hanged from an old sycamore tree, which still stands in the courthouse yard. The only trial for murder which had attracted unusual attention here in recent years was that of Mrs. Dolie Beauchamp, charged with poisoning her husband, Martin Beauchamp, a prominent resident of Concord, this county. Public opinion was much divided as to whether Beauchamp was poisoned, and if poisoned, there was insufficient evidence to convict the wife, who was tried for the crime. In the case of the murder of Miss Sallie Dean there is no doubt of the act of some fiend and no palliating circumstances which would for a moment arouse a sentiment of excuse or pardon.

Miss Dean's Ambition.

On the morning of March 28 Sallie Dean, the four-year-old daughter of Jacob Dean, a prosperous farmer living one mile from Harmony, started for school, where she was nursing an ambition that some day, by means of diligent study and close application, she might become a school teacher.

Her attractive face and genial disposition and modest bearing had won for her rather unusual admiration, and she was often pointed out as one of the girls of the community in whom there was promise of a life of usefulness. It was while going to school swinging her lunch basket and singing one of her favorite songs that she was knocked senseless with a stone and dragged into a thick skirt of woods, where her throat was almost cut from ear to ear. Marshall E. Price, the young blacksmith who now awaits trial, would have been arrested upon the charge of murdering the girl before the detectives investigated the case had it not been that people who were observant tried to make themselves believe that the guilty man could not be Price. He was the son of a man whom every one respected and admired on account of his many good qualities. He had the unbroken confidence of his neighbors. Marshall was his son and had had the training of a devoted mother and the constant help and sympathy of a kind and considerate father. The boy had the advantages of a public school education and showed capacity, for study. As his father was a wheelwright the boy early in life gave evidences of mechanical skill, and soon became a better mechanic than his father. A year ago, when he married, his father gave him little home and his shops, which represented years of honest toil, to the son that he might have every inducement which the parents could offer to start him toward an honest livelihood.

Price's Previous Life.

It is claimed and will be offered in evidence, if necessary to show Price's character, that when he found out that his former companions, who did not care, it is alleged to associate with him, were giving him the cold shoulder he would follow them to the social gatherings of the neighborhood and cut the harness on their horses or adjust the harness so that an accident might soon follow after the team was started. Henry Brodus, a brother-in-law of Marshall Price, will likely appear as a witness for the State and denounce Price for his alleged shortcomings. But all these little offenses were kept hushed because of the esteem in which the father was held and in the hope that Marshall would see the error of his way and repent.

Yet He Was Kind Hearted.

Another reason why young Price was indulged was his kind heartedness and his remarkable willingness to do anything he could as a favor to the one who asked it. He was known as the "handy man of town." He could do the many little things requiring skill which others could not do, and he was constantly besieged with calls for such work. For such reasons as these the members of the jury of inquest of which Price himself was a member could not summon the courage and assume the responsibility of openly bringing the charge against him. On the morning on which the murder was committed Price went to the creek where the murder occurred with his axe to cut some small trees from which to make hames. He had bargained with a boy named Wright to go to his house at an early day and cut him some fire wood. It happened that young Wright went to perform this work the morning of the murder, and when Price returned from the branch, about 10 o'clock, the boy was at the wood pile chopping wood. He saw Price coming from the corner or skirt of woods where the body was found, and upon reaching the shops he secured a bucket of water and took it to the rear of the shops.

A Change of Clothing.

Price stoutly maintained that it was the day before the murder that he was at the bank. Young Wright will testify also that Price went immediately to his house and returned with a different suit of clothes and that he did not wear the suit he had on that morning any more. As has been stated before, it was Price who took the body from the place it was found to Mr. Dean's house. On the way home he said to Mrs. Dean, the mother of the murdered girl, that that day had been to him the saddest of his life; that he had felt all the time that something awful had happened and that he had been unable to content himself at anything he undertook. At various meetings of the jury of inquest he would become exceedingly restless and would leave the room. At the funeral of Sallie Dean he viewed the remains and gave way publicly to his emotion. Besides, he had at several times expressed to persons living in Harmony his infatuation for pretty Sallie Dean. She was often the burden of his talk.

The Detectives Informed.

All these facts were made known to Detectives Gault and Solboid when they began the investigation of what seemed to the people generally a mysterious murder. Price's dreaming powers are already well known. Among other things he found for the detectives the knife which had been used in cutting the girl's throat. This knife was found buried at the base of a small tree only four feet away from the place where the head of the girl lay and was evidently buried there before the murderer arose to leave behind the work of his awful crime. It was after he reached Baltimore that Price told where the stone was buried which had been used in making the first attack.

It Was Exactly Where Price Said It Was Concealed.

It was exactly where Price said it was concealed, which was only three feet from where the books and bucket were found buried.

The Plea of Insanity.

The elder Price claims that his son for several years has given evidences of a weak mind. He says that there is no plausible excuse why a sane man should act in the way his son has, and must be explained only by spells of insanity which probably afflicted him. The State will be prepared to counter any defense which may be made. If insanity becomes the issue, then the State will have experts testify. The defense will have the advice of Dr. Morris, who has seen Price in the Baltimore city jail and who is reported to have said that Price was hypnotized and suffered from hallucinations. Just what basis for insanity will be established by this trial is uncertain so far as modifying the punishment for murder.

Miss Dean's Attempt at Escape.

Sallie Dean was a muscular and well-developed girl, weighing 115 pounds. It is likely when she saw her assailant coming from the woods, and anticipating his purpose, she ran to escape him. But he finally overtook her and struck her on the left side of the head and face with a stone which he must have carried there for some such purpose, as it was a slab from a block of granite, pieces of which are at W. H. Dun's mill, half a mile away. Taking the body a distance of thirty feet from the county road, the books and bucket were dropped, and then the girl was dragged thirty-three feet from this point through thick briars and brush, where her throat was cut. This particular

spot was not visible to passers-by at that time, and was the only place in the neck of woodland that near the county road which was entirely secluded. This particular place must have been studied before the assault was made.

The Motive For the Murder.

It will probably be shown by the prosecution also that the motive for the killing was to protect, at least for the time, the murderer, whom Miss Dean recognized. The detectives said to Price that if the knife could be found, it would go a long way toward fastening the crime on a person they had in mind and whose name was well known to Price. Gault and Solboid left Price at his shop in company with W. H. Dun, for whom Price was doing some wheelwrighting, and went toward Mr. Dean's house, where they took dinner. One hour afterward Mr. Dun started for his home for his dinner, walking directly across the field. In a few minutes he was sitting at the table which the detectives had just left. Before finishing his meal Price called for him and said he had found something for the detectives. Price had been to the scene of the murder, and by taking an old road went to Mr. Dun's mill and asked his son, Clarence, to accompany him to his father's house. This route was more than double the distance which W. H. Dun had traveled, and Price was at his house within ten minutes after he got there, having found in the meantime the knife with which the murder was committed. As Price handed the knife to Detective Solboid he remarked that it was very sharp. Solboid repeated the remark of Price to Mr. Dun, who said: "How does he know it is sharp, since it shows no signs of having been opened?" The detective remarked that that was the point he wanted noticed.

Chief Justice Robinson.

Chief Justice Robinson has been notified of the date of the trial and will make an effort to be present. For the reason that insanity will be the plea. The old courthouse has been torn down and arrangements are being made to have the case tried in the town hall.